

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace original paragraph [0017] presently on file with the following paragraph:

[0017] In further experiments, it has been found that the depth of decarburization for a casting to be coated with the slurry coating having the composition disclosed herein should be between about 0.25 mm and 0.5 mm deep to be effective in preventing the formation of liquid metal during the fusing step. In any event, those skilled in the art can easily determine what the effective depth of decarburization is for any appropriate slurry coating composition by fusing the slurry coating on cast iron parts having different depths of decarburization and inspecting the parts to see if any melting occurred during fusing the slurry coating. Because coatings of similar compositions can be applied to a cast iron substrate by a thermal spray process, it is thought that decarburizing the area of the casting to be coated will likewise be beneficial for coatings applied in this manner.